

REMARKS

By the present Preliminary Amendment, claims 1-6 are cancelled without prejudice. Claims 7-12 remaining in the application were restricted in the parent application in a restriction requirement dated July 13, 2000 (Paper No. 6) and claims 13-17 have been added.

A favorable consideration on the merits is believed to be next in order, and is earnestly solicited.

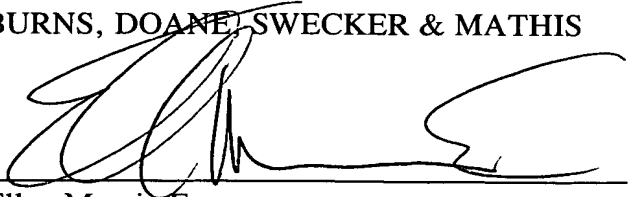
If for any reason the Examiner feels that the application is not now in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact, by telephone, the Applicants' undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that any additional fees are due with this paper, please charge our Deposit Account No. 02-4800.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: November 20, 2001

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Marked-up Copy of Claims 9 and 12

9. (Amended) A method according to [any one of Claims 7 and 8] Claim 7, wherein said step of cleaning outer surfaces of the electronic component chips comprises a process of grinding outer surfaces of electronic component chips.

12. (Amended) A method according to [any one of Claims 7 to 11] Claim 7, wherein said step of cleaning outer surfaces of the electronic component chips is performed by washing outer surfaces of electronic component chips using a washing liquid.

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